

Community Christmas Tree

THE CHRIST-CHILD'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

Above the bustle and wear and tear
Of a city's life—in a busy square,
The Yule Tree stands with its open arms
A symbol of love for all to share.
And great and small respond to the call
Of the holly and the holly-leafed bough,
For the Christ-Child's voice is calling—
"Come,
O come for my Festival is free,
And Love is Host at my Christmas Tree!"

They gather the rich and poor are one,
Parent and Child and the stranger lone;
For the heart of the City goes out to-night
In a chorus of Music, a flood of Light,
And the Christ-Child Spirit, divinely fair,
That illumined the Manger cold and bare,
Is born again in the City Square.

"You will find the Christmas Tree of Big Stone Gap, in the heart of the business section of town. For many years has it stood on the banks of Powells River, lifting its green arms to storm and sunshine alike, until it has attained the symmetry of a beautiful, full-grown tree. It now rejoices to be chosen as a tree apart, for the pleasure of the many children who will gather around it, and, as a willing sacrifice for the commemoration of the birth of Christ. The tree has given its life. What will your offering be? No matter how small, let it be something that will gladden the heart of one less fortunate than yourself. Fill a stocking that will be a surprise and a joy to some poor child, bring a pair of mittens or shoes, some vegetables, fruit or groceries that will stay the fangs of hunger at some poor man's door. All day long the sample room of the Monte Vista will be open, and all donations will be taken from the tree to this room and kept there until Xmas Day, when the associated charities will distribute all offerings to those who are in need and worthy of being helped. The exercises will start at 5:30, a song service will be rendered and some illustrated songs thrown on a screen.

At 5 o'clock on Christmas Eve, half an hour before the Tree blossoms into beauty, every church bell in town will ring. Trumpet and cornet calls to the east, west, north and south will herald the lighting of the tree and the beginning of the celebration.

The committee has perfected the plans for the evening. The boys and girls will stand near the tree in a place specially designated for them. A place has also been spaced where the colored children and people will stand during the services, all in a position to see the words of the carols as they will be thrown on the Minor building. After the song service the children will form a line and march across the street to the Summerfield building, where the candy and oranges will be distributed. An other distributing point near by for the colored children, so that no one need fear that he will not get candy and an orange.

Two big bonfires will burn on either side of the tree and add to the comfort and cheer of the occasion.

Our tree stands fifty-eight feet high. Over twenty men helped to cut it down, lift it on the wagon, and six horses pulled it to town. Through the kindness of Mr. Ralph Taggart, fifteen men came down from Stonegap, and the tree soon stood in its place.

The New York papers speak of their tree in Madison Square as the "Tree of Light", and it stands seventy feet high, just twelve feet higher than ours.

That is one of six Community Christmas Trees in that city. The custom has spread over all this country and in Canada, and this year, in France, the soldiers will put up a tree for the children of France.

The ladies wish to express their thanks to Mr. E. A. Comp-ton, Mr. O. C. Bell and Mr. Tom Pierson and their assistants for getting the tree in so promptly, and to the men from Stonegap.

(Continued on page 2.)

The Old Folks.

Quite a number of people of advanced years living at this place and surrounding country, and it may prove of interest to know who they are, where they live, and how old they are. The information is furnished to this paper by a citizen who had been some time getting it up, and while it may not be exact it is believed that it will be found fairly accurate. He wishes everybody a Merry Christmas, but to the old folks he extends in much larger measure the greetings of the season.

The list is headed by the Patriarch, George Cowan Skeen, of Turkey Cove, who was born in August of the year 1824, when James Monroe was President, and therefore past 91 years of age.

George Cowan Skeen, Turkey Cove.

Martha D. Gilly, Wild Cat Valley.

Joseph L. Boatwick, Big Stone Gap, Henry Gibbons, Big Stone Gap, Jemima Gilly, Big Stone Gap.

Elisha Tate, East Stone Gap, Polly A. Gibson, Big Stone Gap.

John (Jackal) Olinger, Olinger, Mary A. Lawson, (Mexican War Widow) Powell Valley, Sally Creech, East Stone Gap, Louisa Legg, Wild Cat Valley.

William Kelly, (Blind Man) Big Stone Gap.

Isaac T. Taylor, Big Stone Gap.

Joseph G. Lawson, Powell Valley, J. B. C. Olinger, Cadet, Absolom Gilly, Powell Mountain.

Louis W. Philipps, Wild Cat Valley, Benjamin Richmond, East Stone Gap, Edwin Prescott, Big Stone Gap, William Witt, Big Stone Gap, Mrs. John W. Fox, Big Stone Gap.

Eliza Barron, Big Stone Gap.

Henry S. Shanklin and Emily B. Thompson, Big Stone Gap, John Server, Turkey Cove, Louisa Kilbourne, Cadet.

Elizabeth Gilly (Aunt Bess) and Thomas Orender, Big Stone Gap, William Fox, Wild Cat Valley.

Dorcas Belcher and David R. Palmer, Big Stone Gap.

Samuel Moore, Green Naiper, John W. Belcher, Wesley S. Patton and Henry Taylor, (Captain) Big Stone Gap, Elizabeth Mullena, Cracker's Neck, Alex. M. Wilson, Cadet, Mary E. Lawson, Powell Valley, George W. Robnetette, Cadet.

Carter D. Herd and Mahala Patton, Big Stone Gap, W. Henry Wampler and Dr. Jerry Wells, East Stone Gap, William J. Kelly, Cadet, John (Squeazy) Slemple, Olinger.

David C. Williams, Charles L. Hamblen, Charles Scott and J. Nelson Moore, Big Stone Gap, Alfred M. Lea, East Stone Gap, Rebecca Allen, Cadet.

Joshua Mullins, Henry Bentley, John W. Morris, John M. Stewart, Thomas Griffin and Preston G. Wallace, Big Stone Gap, Isaac Burion, Little Stone Gap, J. K. Polk Barron, Turkey Cove, Timothy Ramey, Powell Mountain, Harvey Young, Yokum Station, William R. Collier, East Stone Gap, John M. Robinette, Powell Valley.

Dr. George Cowan Gilmer, Turkey Cove, Mrs. Melissa Slemple and Mrs. Nancy J. Wilson, Powell Valley, Sylvester Adkins, East Stone Gap.

Stephen Collier, Wild Cat Valley, Rev. Jacob J. Johnson,

Henry Garrison and A. Hunter Weatherly, Big Stone Gap, Stephen S. Sampson, Jr., Cadet.

Rufus A. Ayers, Eugene A. J. Drennen, Walter W. Nickels and Lilburn R. Perry, Big Stone Gap.

Frank Sturgill and Allen R. Christian, Big Stone Gap, John Galloway, Cracker's Neck.

The claim is not made that the foregoing list includes all of the people of advanced years in the country tributary to Big Stone Gap, but it is believed that of the people of 70 years and over, the list contains most of them.

Cut this article out, and preserve it. It might be of interest to you.

The U. D. C. Meeting.

The Daughters of the Confederacy met in regular session Saturday afternoon, December 11th, at the home of Mrs. W. T. Goodloe, when the school board with their wives, and the faculty of the Big Stone Gap High School, were the guests of the Chapter.

The meeting was opened in the usual manner by the president, Mrs. L. O. Pettit. Roll call was responded to by four teen members with a quotation from a Southern author. There were nineteen visitors present. After the reading of the minutes the historian, Mrs. Alexander, took charge of the meeting, and the following program was rendered:

Paper, "Social Life on the Plantation", by Mrs. Taylor. Duet, Mrs. S. A. Bailey and Miss Janet Bailey. Reading, "Nebuchadnezzar", by Irwin Russell, Mrs. Wade Barrier. Solo, Miss Nemo Vineyard. Reading, "Major Jones' Courtship", by William Tappan Thompson. Mrs. M. R. McCorkle. Vocal Solo, Miss Mary Skeen. Reading, "Master and Slave", Miss Irma Orr.

During the social hour which followed, the hostess served a tempting two course menu. The January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. J. P. Wolfe. Roll call will be answered with a quotation from or about Gen. Lee. The old hymn, "How Firm a Foundation", will be sung by all, this being Gen. Lee's favorite.

Those who enjoyed Mrs. Goodloe's hospitality were: Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Gilmer, Prof. and Mrs. A. J. Wolfe, Prof. E. C. Akers, Mesdames L. O. Pettit, H. A. Alexander, H. L. Miller, George Bogard, Wade Barrier, George L. Taylor, S. A. Bailey, M. R. McCorkle, J. L. McCormick, J. P. Wolfe, E. E. Goodloe, J. G. Henson, of Imboden, H. A. W. Skeen, Bruce Tinsley, Theodore Smith, Malcolm Smith, Misses Irma Orr, Janet Bailey, Flora Bruce, Margaret Waller, Clarabell Lockett, Olga Horton, Nemo Vineyard, Mary Skeen, Ruby Kemper, Roberta Buck and Monica Hunstet, of Norton.

Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Cor. and Rec. Secy.

NOTICE TO WATER CONSUMERS.

At the last regular meeting of the Town Council a resolution was passed authorizing the water to be cut off as early as possible after January 1st, 1916, from all consumers who are in arrears for rents, without further notice, and suit instituted to collect rents past due and unpaid.

B. C. FERGUSON, Recorder.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a running ear, which is often discharging a thick yellow matter. The inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition. Hearing will be restored, forever, and there is no danger of any kind. We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

J. C. CRUZ, 233 E. CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Wilson Married

Ceremony Performed in Presence of Less Than Thirty Guests.

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Wilson and Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt were married at 8:30 o'clock tonight and left afterward to spend their honeymoon at Hot Springs, Va. The President and his bride traveled in a private car attached to a special train leaving here at 11:10 o'clock, which is due to arrive in Hot Springs tomorrow at 8:15 o'clock a. m.

Shortly after 10 o'clock the President and Mrs. Wilson entered a waiting White House automobile and motored to Alexandria, Va., across the Potomac to take their private car there and avoid a crowd at the railroad station in this city.

The prayer book which the officiating clergyman used once was the property of the late Judge William H. Bolling, of Virginia, father of the bride, and was used at her request. Several guests added to the list at the last moment included Prof. Stockton Axson, a brother of the late Mrs. Wilson; A. Bolling Galt, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Galt, the former a brother of Mrs. Wilson's first husband, and Mrs. Tomulty, the wife of Secretary Tomulty. One of the added guests was Matilda Braxton, an old negro mammy of Wytheville, who has been a servant in the bride's family all her life.

The President dined as usual at the White House at seven o'clock with his daughters and afterward drove to his bride's home, about a mile from the executive mansion. A cold driving rain, which swept the city all day, cleared off at sunset and the evening was cool and pleasant.

Everything was in readiness when the President arrived, and the ceremony proceeded with out music. Neither the President nor Mrs. Galt had any attendants and there were no ushers or flower girls. Neither the army, the navy, nor the diplomatic corps was represented, the occasion being what both of the couple had wished it to be—a home wedding.

A Jolly Party.

Mrs. W. J. Draper entertained a large number of young boys and girls at her home Friday afternoon for her two daughters, Misses Lucile and Irene Draper.

Misses Olga Horton, Retha Thompson, Irma Orr and Ruby Kemper assisted the young people in their games such as: Beast, Bird or Fish, Buzz, Find the ring, Simon says, "Wag Wag" and other enjoyable ones, after which Mrs. Draper served delicious ice cream and cake, fruit and candy.

Those who were invited to attend were: Misses Juanita and Margaret Taylor, Ruth and Katherine Barron, Bonnie Catron, Reba Collier, Margaret Gilly, Louise Cox, Nita and Caroline Goodloe, Lucy Morison, Jean Marrs, Pollie Kelly, Kate Lewis Pettit, Annie Woodward and Ruby Jenkins, John Allen Kilbourne, Victor Baker, Loyd Mahaffey, George and Tom Goodloe, Clarence Shunk, James Gilly, Albert Sturgill, Ralph Brown, Carl Knight, Henry Morison and William Long.

Home From School For the Holidays.

The following girls and boys who are attending schools away this winter have arrived or will arrive home this week for the holidays.

Misses Virginia Beverly and Rachel Craft, of Virginia Interment, of Bristol, Miss Ruth Prescott, of Mary Baldwin Seminary, at Staunton, Miss Kathleen Knight, of Martha Washington College, at Arlington, Miss Gustava Parsons, of Radford Normal School, William Nickels, Jr., of University of Virginia, Sam Nickels, of Richmond Medical College, Henry McCormick, of Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Creed Kelly, Henderson Hursley and John Allen Goodloe, of V. P. I. at Blacks-

burg, Henry Bullitt, of Andover, Mass., Donald Prescott, of University of Pennsylvania, Vivion Mouser, of the University of Michigan, Tom Cochran, of Augusta Military Academy, Fort Defiance, Va.

Married at Appalachia.

Lewis Parrish and Miss Dollie White, of Iman, were married at Appalachia last Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock in the parlor of the Windsor Hotel. A few friends of the contracting parties and a number of hotel guests were the only witnesses to the ceremony. Rev. Vaughn, pastor of the Southern Methodist Church, was the officiating minister.

The bride is a daughter of Dederick White, of Iman, and for two years was assistant postmaster at that place, but at the time of her marriage held a position in the commissary for the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company. She is a very popular young lady and has many friends at Iman and Appalachia. The groom holds a position with Mahaffey Bros., as sawyer at their saw mill, and is a capable and efficient employee.

Carthage Woman Tells Happy Story.

Mrs. Laura Duke, of Carthage, Penn., was a victim of stomach disorders for several years. She lost appetite and her weight fell off. She could not rest at night.

She took Mayr's Wonderful Remedy—just a few doses—and found herself restored.

In fact, Mrs. Duke's recovery was so rapid she was afraid that it could be only temporary. So she waited from September, when she took the remedy, until the following February to pass judgment. Then she wrote:

"I write you in regard to your wonderful stomach remedy that I took last September. I feel better than I have in five years."

"My weight was 127 pounds; now it is 147, and I can eat anything I want. I sleep well at night. I would have written before, but I wanted to see how I got along."

Mayr's Wonderful Remedy gives permanent results for stomach, liver and intestinal ailments. Eat as much and whatever you like. No more distress after eating, pressure of gas in the stomach and around the heart. Get one bottle of your druggist now and try it on an absolute guarantee—if not satisfactory money will be returned.—adv.

Coal Companies Build Own Ships.

Export Trade Seriously Handicapped by the Shortage of Vessels.

Foreign countries who have to import their fuel are facing the most serious shortage of coal in their history. This is due to vessel shortage, the New York American learns.

In South America, it is estimated, some of the largest consumers have not more than a month's supply in sight. Moreover, this situation may be further aggravated if the British Government refuses to license certain British ships that now have charters to take American coal to South America. Since December 1, no British ships traded between neutral ports except by special license.

American shippers see here an opportunity for England to seriously handicap the export coal trade that has grown radically since the outbreak of the war by refusing licenses.

This situation is apparently driving some of the big coal companies to build and operate their own steamers. Some years ago, Berwind-White interests had two large steamers built abroad to use in the coal carrying trade.

These boats have never suffered for charters, and since

the war they are supposed to have made handsome earnings for their owners.

Interests associated with the Consolidated Coal Company started building large steamers early in the year, and two have already been placed in service. They take 8,500 tons cargo, and are now in the service between Baltimore and Egypt.

The Pocahontas Navigation Company recently built three steamers for the coal carrying trade. The Clinchfield interests will soon have a fleet of five steamers for coal carrying. They already have two in commission.

The New England Coal and Coke Company have about a half dozen modern steamers in the coal carrying trade, while other Boston interests have a dozen or more steamers, all built in the last five years, and therefore modern in every particular.

So high are rates that the coal companies find great difficulty in refusing orders, some of which are said to be on a basis of 10 per cent, a month of the cost of the steamer.

Coal steamers taking cargoes to Cuba now find ready return cargoes of sugar, at 35 to 37 cents a hundred, against a normal rate of 7 cents a hundred. Fifty shillings are being paid for steamers or schooners to take coal to South America. This is attracting to this trade practically every coastwise schooner big enough to stand the trip.

This has brought about such a shortage of coastwise tonnage that New England coal consumers depending on water transportation now have to pay \$1.50 a ton from Hampton Roads, against a normal rate of 75 to 90 cents.

Pennsylvania producers are selling coal at \$2 a ton at the mines, 65 to 80 cents advance over normal prices. They are predicting \$3 per ton coal at the mines shortly unless the transportation situation is soon relieved.—New York American.

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